

Youth sit-in defends Indigenous sovereignty

No fracking pipeline on Wet'suwet'en land

By Zola Fish

Twelve protesters supporting Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs were arrested by members of the Victoria, British Columbia, Police Department early in the morning of Jan. 22 during a lengthy occupation of a provincial government building lobby.

Indigenous youth activists blocked the entrance to the Canadian Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources for about 18 hours, starting at 11 a.m. on Jan. 21. The group was standing in solidarity with hereditary chiefs of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation, opposing Coastal GasLink (CGL) plans to build a pipeline, and asking that the chiefs' demands be upheld, observed and respected.

The \$6.6 billion pipeline is led by TC Energy Corporation. Once completed, it would run from Dawson Creek to a \$17-billion LNG Canada plant in Kitimat. The \$40 billion project was heralded as the single largest private sector investment in the history of Canada by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in 2018.

"The Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs provided alternative routes to Coastal GasLink that would have been acceptable to them as a pipeline corridor," according to a statement released by the protesters. "Coastal GasLink decided that it did not want to take those acceptable options and instead insisted on a route that drives the pipeline through ecologically pristine and culturally important areas."

Protesters remained in and around the building through the night and told Victoria News on Wednesday morning that there were many arrests between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. They said they were forcefully removed and had wanted only to peacefully occupy the space.

The youth have filed a complaint with the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner due to the police violence they experienced.

'Unceded, untreated and unsundered'

The Unist'ot'en Clan of the Wet'suwet'en nation has held a checkpoint since 2010, the Unist'ot'en Camp, which has been stopping all pipeline crews from entering the area since they do not have permission from the hereditary chiefs. In January 2019, 14 people were arrested during a tense standoff at the checkpoint. Faced with the determination of the land defenders and an international



PHOTO: TA'KAIYA BLANEY

Indigenous youth sit-in at Energy Ministry in Victoria, B.C., Jan. 21.

outcry, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) backed down.

A recent investigation by the Guardian reported that the RCMP were prepared to use snipers with shoot-to-kill orders when they launched the January 2019 raid, a revelation that was met with shock and outrage. The RCMP worked with Coastal GasLink to formulate plans to make arrests and "sterilize the site" in what has become a frequent example of police authorities working directly with pipeline and other corporations to force projects through despite opposition.

Then, on Dec. 31, 2019, British Columbia Supreme Court Justice Marguerite Church granted CGL an injunction against members of the Wet'suwet'en nation. The company immediately attempted to send contractors onto Indigenous territory, while the RCMP has set up a blockade—which it calls an "exclusion zone"—of the Unist'ot'en Camp, limiting access to attorneys, journalists, supporters and even Wet'suwet'en members.

"RCMP are now blocking access to Wet'suwet'en territory, and only allowing hereditary chiefs that THEY approve to enter our own unceded lands," said a Jan. 15 report from the camp. "Our Wet'suwet'en people and family members are being blocked off the territory, while RCMP say that they are in a position to decide who is and who isn't a chief."

"Police have blocked media and supplies out, and they are enforcing a modern day pass system — forcing people to identify themselves in order to come and go from our own unceded lands."

People attempting to leave the camp have been detained and questioned by the cops, forced to provide identification, and told they would not be allowed to return.

"Wet'suwet'en lands are unceded, untreated and unsundered. We maintain full jurisdiction, and the right to decide what happens on our lands. Our chiefs have unanimously asked RCMP to pack up and leave their remote detachment, but instead RCMP are increasing their presence — in anticipation of using violence against our people to force their way onto our lands."

To justify their tactics, CGL and Ottawa rely on the approval of "band council" chiefs. But Parliament member Jody Wilson-Raybould, former regional chief of the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations, describes the band councils as "a creature of the colonial Indian Act" with "limited delegated authority tied to reserves. They do not have inherent authority, nor are they self-governing or an expression of self-determination." For the Wet'suwet'en Nation, it is the hereditary chiefs who represent genuine sovereignty.

Hereditary chiefs are the traditional leaders of the clans. They carry the responsibility of the cultural traditions. They keep the history, protocols, songs and dances of the clan that have been passed down for hundreds of generations.

Union, student solidarity

At a Jan. 15 news conference in Vancouver, the British Columbia Government and Service Employees' Union (BCGSEU) announced it was filing legal complaints against the RCMP after union members bringing food and emergency supplies were denied access to the "exclusion zone."

"As a trade union committed to supporting the full implementation of the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Com-

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COAL MINERS

Block train, win back pay

A group of coal miners in Pike County, Ky., blocked a coal train for three days until the company, Quest Energy, turned over their paychecks on Jan. 16.

Miners and their families stood on the tracks, preventing a coal train from moving, because they hadn't been paid since Dec. 16.

The mineworkers were inspired by an earlier action in August, when a group of coal miners blocked a train from leaving the Blackjewel mine in Harlan County, demanding that Blackjewel pay them the money that they were owed. After two months, the Blackjewel miners won a large portion of the back pay they were owed.



BUS DRIVERS

Win 82-day strike

For 82 days, a group of bus drivers employed by Transdev, a contractor of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's Cinder Road Garage, were on strike over the company's refusal to agree to a contract.

The Cinder Road Garage was the only garage that was outsourced by Washington, D.C.'s transit system.

The strike helped inspire a weeklong strike by more than 500 Fairfax Connector bus drivers employed by D.C. Metro. That strike, which lasted for five days in December, led to D.C. Metro's agreeing to no longer outsource more work.



IKEA WORKERS

Strike wins new contract

After a week on the picket line, IKEA distribution center employees in Westhampton, N.J., returned to work Jan. 20. The workers, represented by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Lodge 1061, voted to ratify a new collective bargaining agreement.

"The membership was solid, very strong and very unified both in its decision to go to strike and decision to go back to work," said Rick Compner, the Lodge 1061 business director.

Impeach Trump for racism

By Lev Koufax

During late January, the impeachment trial of U.S. President Donald Trump has played out on the floor of the U.S. Senate. The basis of this trial is that Trump allegedly violated “national security interests” by withholding U.S. military aid from the government of Ukraine—a war-like government brought to power by an illegal U.S.-backed coup—until Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy agreed to investigate Democratic Party politician Joe Biden for corruption.


What matters more than the current impeachment charges are the charges the Democratic Party has not brought against Trump.

There’s no doubt that Donald Trump is a racist, a capitalist crook and a fraud. However, his impeachment should be based upon issues

other than his alleged danger to “U.S. national security interests.” What that phrase really means is “the interests of Wall Street, Big Oil and the military-industrial complex to super exploit the world.”

Instead, Donald Trump should be impeached for caging immigrant children at the U.S.-Mexico border. Instead, Trump should be impeached for his public threats against Minnesota Congresswoman Ilhan Omar. Instead, Trump should be impeached for his admission of sexual assault. And much more.

Why haven’t these issues been raised? Because the Democratic Party still represents the interests of the wealthy. Its leaders want to shut the masses of the people and their urgent needs out of the impeachment process.

If Trump is to be impeached, let it be for racism, xenophobia, sexism and anti-LGBTQ2S bigotry! 



Rep. Al Green of Texas called for Trump to be impeached for racism. Democrats ignored him.



Delbert Africa brutalized by Philadelphia police on Aug. 8, 1978.



Delbert Africa after his release from prison on Jan. 18, 2020.



Delbert Africa, free!

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

MOVE member Delbert Africa, held in prison since the confrontation of Aug. 8, 1978, has walked out of a Pennsylvania prison after 42 years. Delbert, in his 73rd year of life, came out to meet other members of the MOVE Organization, who greeted him with a hearty chant of “Long live John Africa!” and a MOVE salute. Del was in a good mood and high spirits, cracking jokes and eating sandwiches.

Aug. 8, 1978, was a date of infamy,

for it marked an attack on the MOVE house in West Philadelphia’s Powelton Village, where hundreds of cops shot thousands of shots into the structure where men, women and children were huddled in the basement. Gunfire was followed by water cannons, where MOVE people had to fight to stay alive from being drowned.

When Delbert exited the house, he was beaten by several cops – rifle-butted, stomped and kicked viciously. When several of these cops were charged with assaulting Del,

they had nothing to worry about, thanks to Judge Stanley Kubacki. Ignoring video tapes, he acquitted the cops, citing, among other things, Delbert’s muscles as justification for the beating.

Ironically, one of those cops charged might have been luckier if he were sent to prison. Several weeks after the trial, he was shot and paralyzed by his wife, who also happened to be a cop.

Delbert Africa, MOVE member, walks free after 42 years in the joint.

From *Imprisoned Nation*, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal. Listen to Mumia’s commentary at PrisonRadio.org.

No fracking pipeline on Wet’suwet’en land

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mission and the recommendations of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, we are deeply troubled by the use of exclusion zones prohibiting access to Wet’suwet’en territories,” explained BCGSEU Treasurer Paul Finch.

The Wet’suwet’en hereditary chiefs have called upon the United Nations to hold Canada accountable. Earlier, the U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination called upon Canada to “uphold free, prior and informed consent” with Indigenous peoples.

On Jan. 27, hundreds of university and high school students in Vancouver walked out of classes in solidarity with the Wet’suwet’en people’s resistance. They gathered at Vancouver City Hall and then marched to the office of Environment Minister George Heyman. The students’ demands include suspending all of the permits for the pipeline project, and that the RCMP and other security services be withdrawn from the Wet’suwet’en lands.

“I think it’s really important for all of Canada right now and everybody who can find out about this to support the Wet’suwet’en people in their fight to keep their land sacred and keep it the way it’s supposed to be,” said protester Savanna Todd. “This pipeline is really going to hurt those people and it’s going to hurt the environment, and it’s going to hurt their way of life. So I think all of us need to learn about this.”

Readers can get updates from Unist’ot’en Camp on Facebook. To donate for supplies, visit the camp’s GoFundMe page.

Mike Pence's KKK version of history

By Stephen Millies

Vice President Mike Pence penned a poisonous piece on impeachment in the Jan. 17 Wall Street Journal. His article revives white supremacist myths about the Reconstruction period following the U.S. Civil War.

The pseudo-historical op-ed seeks to defend Trump by whitewashing the super racist president, Andrew Johnson, who was impeached in 1868. It uses “Profiles in Courage,” written by Democrat John F. Kennedy, to do so.

Republican Sen. Edmund Ross is eulogized in Kennedy’s book for casting the deciding vote that kept Johnson in the White House. Pence quotes from it to urge Democratic senators not to convict Trump.

Trump’s sidekick describes Johnson, who succeeded the assassinated Abraham Lincoln, as having “quickly run afoul of the Republicans in Congress who wished to impose a far harsher penalty on the former Confederacy.”

What’s the real story? Andrew Johnson wanted to keep African Americans from voting. He did nothing as thousands of Black people were killed by Ku Klux Klan terror.

Johnson declared that “this is a country for white men, and by God, as long as I am President, it shall be a government for white men.” What a role model for Trump!

Frederick Douglass knew what Johnson was about. Douglass said to a friend at Lincoln’s second inauguration, “Whatever Andrew Johnson may be, he is no friend of our race.”

Pence is retelling the Klan version of history that vilified both Black and white fighters for human rights. These lies were taught in U.S. classrooms for a century until the Black liberation struggle flushed them out of most public schools.

The truth can be found in the monumental classic by W.E.B. DuBois, “Black Reconstruction in America.”

A big step backwards

Andrew Johnson was nominated as Lincoln’s running mate in June 1864. At the time, the largest Union army was besieging Petersburg, Va., while another Union army was trying to reach Atlanta.

This was the bloodiest period of the Civil War, with hundreds of Union soldiers being killed every day. Some Northern capitalists wanted to throw in the towel. Lincoln himself thought that he would be defeated for re-election.

The Republican Party’s answer was to capitulate to racism. It re-branded itself as the “National Union Party” and put Andrew Johnson—a Tennessee Democrat and slave owner—on the ticket.

Lincoln was no abolitionist and had to be pushed to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. During the Civil War, Lincoln hanged 38 members of the Dakota Sioux Nation in Mankato, Minn., on Dec. 26, 1862. But Johnson was to the right of Lincoln.

What turned things around at the ballot box were the victories of the Union Army, particularly Atlanta’s capture on Sept. 2, 1864. The most revolutionary part of the army were Black soldiers, who were determined to defeat slavery.



The first Black members of Congress elected during Reconstruction.

Yet, Lincoln got just 55 percent of the vote and won New York state by less than 9,000 votes.

Six weeks after Lincoln was inaugurated for a second term, he was assassinated on Good Friday 1865.

Reprieve for traitors

The Confederacy had been smashed and the slave masters were in disarray. Now was the time to seize the land like the people of Zimbabwe did 135 years later under the leadership of President Robert Mugabe!

That’s what Pennsylvania Congressperson Thaddeus Stevens wanted to do, backed by a few colleagues in Congress. Big Capital wasn’t interested. Southern aristocrats were given a reprieve.

Yankee moneybags didn’t want formerly enslaved Africans to take over the plantations that they worked on and made rich. Northern capitalists wanted to exploit them instead. They certainly weren’t going to give any of the land back to Indigenous people from whom it was stolen.

The only land the Yankee one percent wanted to seize was for their railroad companies. Abandoned plantations along the Sea Islands on the coast of South Carolina and Georgia that had been granted to Black people by General Sherman were taken away.

Meanwhile, President Johnson was busy pardoning thousands of Confederate traitors. In 1866, he vetoed a civil rights bill and appropriations for the Freedmen’s Bureau that helped Black people in the South.

Hundreds of Black people were massacred by white mobs in Memphis, Charleston and New Orleans in 1866. A thousand African Americans were murdered by whites in Texas from 1865 to 1866. Black Codes were enacted in Southern states that denied any rights to African Americans.

Black people in the South and a few white allies fought back. So did the Radical Republicans in Congress, led by Thad Stevens. Andrew Johnson became detested and his opponents won large majorities in both houses of Congress in the 1866 elections.

The 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which forbade slavery, was written in the blood of hundreds of thousands of Black, white, Indigenous, Latinx, Muslim and Jewish soldiers. It has a rotten exception

that permits slave labor in prisons.

This amendment now meant formerly enslaved Black people were no longer counted as three-fifths of a person. Southern states, if they were admitted to the union, would have even more seats in Congress. But African Americans could still be prevented from voting.

Combined with racist congressmen in the North, such a reactionary coalition with the former slavocracy could repudiate the U.S. national debt that had ballooned because of the Civil War. A large section of the wealthy and powerful in the North would have lost billions.

Suddenly there was support among capitalists for Black voting rights. Black people fought back against the Ku Klux Klan with rifles donated by Northern allies. Impeaching President Andrew Johnson was part of this righteous struggle.

Reconstruction was a brief springtime for African Americans. Black elected officials opened public schools for all students.

In South Carolina, a Black majority state legislature, called the Black Parliament, became the most democratic in U.S. history. It was the best government poor white people ever had.

False profiles

Pence demagogically uses “Profiles in Courage” to defend Trump. Seven years after it was published, President John F. Kennedy was murdered in a Pentagon coup d’etat. Kennedy’s assassination on Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas was supported by the same elements in the ruling class that are backing Trump today.

In his book, JFK praised eight U.S. senators for their alleged courage. Three of them were slave masters. Neither Hiram Revels or Blanche Bruce—the first two Black senators, who were elected by the Mississippi legislature during Reconstruction—were mentioned.

Sen. Charles Sumner, an ally of Thaddeus Stevens who fought for land and freedom for Black people, wasn’t included either. Sumner was nearly beaten to death while pinned under his Senate desk by the rabidly pro-slavery Rep. Preston Brooks.

Kennedy paid tribute to Sen. Robert Taft—co-author of the viciously anti-union Taft-Hartley Act—for

denouncing the Nuremberg trials of Nazi war criminals.

Pence’s hero, Kansas Sen. Edmund Ross, was no “profile in courage.” Historian Brenda Wineapple, author of “The Impeachers,” described how Ross sold his vote to Andrew Johnson:

“He wanted Johnson to support a treaty that would sell 8 million acres that belonged to Native Americans to a railroad for a fraction of what it was worth. He wanted his brother to get a government position in Florida. Then he wanted two friends to be appointed as Indian agents, and another friend to be Southern superintendent of Indian affairs, and another friend to be a surveyor in Kansas.”

While Ross was demanding favors from Johnson, Kansas Republican Gov. Crawford was sending troops to fight Indigenous people on behalf of the railroads. It was railroad interests that helped broker the rotten deal in 1877 that led to Reconstruction’s bloody overthrow.

Impeach Trump for racism!

Trump and Pence need to be thrown out now. But the Democratic Party leadership has limited the impeachment struggle to Trump’s delay of \$400 million in military aid to Ukraine. Texas Rep. Al Green’s appeal to impeach Trump for racism has been ignored.

No money should be sent to the regime in Ukraine that persecutes leftists. Its fascist supporters murdered at least 42 people at Odessa’s House of Trade Unions in 2014.

Backed by the U.S. and the European Union, the Kiev government has killed thousands of workers in its war against the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics. Every cent of aid sent to Ukraine’s fascist militias is money taken away from poor people.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is trying to divert the struggle against Trump. But it’s the burning hatred against the Klansman in the White House that forced the Democratic Party leadership to back impeachment.

To millions of Black people and their allies, Trump is a clear and present danger. It’s as if arch-segregationist George Wallace had become president.

Trump and Pence are both neo-Confederates. The power of the people will sweep them away. ■

‘Money for food stamps, not war on Iran’

By John Parker



SLL PHOTO: REBECCA JACKSON-MOESER

At the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade held in Los Angeles on Jan. 20, tens of thousands of spectators and parade participants along MLK Boulevard were welcomed with over a thousand fact sheets against U.S. war and sanctions, and demands for money to fight poverty.

A large banner hovering over two literature and sign-up tables at the beginning of the march also greeted march participants and spectators. Amplified sound carried the messages of money for food stamps, housing, health care and education, not war on Iran, and for the immediate removal of U.S. troops from Iraq.

This action was part of the national call to reclaim the MLK holiday. Unfortunately, the parade in Los Angeles, like in many cities, uses com-

mercial interests, police and Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) youth contingents to promote values of war and profit that are foreign to King’s message. The grassroots action on Monday was an attempt to refocus toward the struggle for social justice and against the drive for blood for oil profits.

In this mostly African American parade in South Central L.A., many heads were turned in response to the calls for stopping police killings and bombs against people of color fighting U.S. imperialism. Appeals were made to the ROTC youth to not believe the lies they were being told by recruiters.

In Los Angeles, the Peoples’ Power Assembly, the Socialist Unity Party and Unión del Barrio initiated the event. [R]

Capitalist climate disaster strikes Indonesia

By Scott Scheffer

As deadly bushfires were raging up and down the eastern part of Australia in late December and early January, Indonesia’s island of Java and the nation’s capital city of Jakarta suffered historic floods.

Rivers swelled and burst their banks, while some neighborhoods saw over 20 feet of flood water within hours of the start of the rains. The waters have since receded, but more rainfall is expected.

Some 67 people have already died by electrocution, hypothermia, drowning or being buried alive. Those who live in the poorest and most vulnerable neighborhoods suffered the most.

According to NASA’s Earth Observatory website, the immediate cause was that winds which blew from the northeast of Java met warm winds blowing from the Indian Ocean and formed the torrential rains. This weather pattern is common for Java but has become more frequent in recent decades.

Indonesia is the world’s largest archipelago and is comprised of some 18,000 islands. Its capital city of Jakarta is located on the western side of Java and is one of the world’s “megacities.” Its 10 million residents experience overwhelming rain and floods every year. Forty percent of the city is below sea level and—similar to Amsterdam—relies on hundreds of pumps to keep it habitable.

Even with the elaborate pumping system, the city is sinking further below sea level with each pass-

ing year. Half of the city will be submerged in 30 years. President Joko Widodo has proposed moving the capital to Borneo, in the center of Indonesia’s largest land mass, but the narrative that surrounds the proposal denies that climate change or rising sea levels are a factor.

As news spread about the flooding and the death toll, meteorologists asserted that although Java has historically dealt with flooding, this rain was different.

On New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day, more rain fell than has been recorded in a 24-hour period since the Dutch colonizers began keeping records in 1886. In other words, this may have been the greatest rainfall ever.

Power failures, mudslides and rising flood water displaced 175,000 people.

Bosses dismiss climate crisis

Like Australia, Indonesia has a president that denies the role of climate change, and the media march in lockstep.

Worldwide, representatives of giant corporations—and fossil fuel capitalists in particular—try to propagate the idea that extreme weather has always been and always will be, that it is normal that the earth experiences warmer periods that come and go, and—in the wildest version of climate change denial



Jakarta residents evacuated from home on Jan. 1.

of all—that climate change science is a Chinese conspiracy. None of it is based on actual science.

In recent years, although climate scientists and meteorologists cannot connect any particular storm or weather event to climate change, they are in agreement that global warming from CO2 and other toxic emissions is warming the earth’s atmosphere, melting the polar ice caps and raising the sea levels. All of this is increasing the frequency and intensity of disastrous weather events.

As Jakarta grew, its development was shaped by frequent flooding and its vast income inequality. The city’s wealthy live in areas out of harm’s way. The rich live in posh neighborhoods less prone to flooding, but the majority live in areas where the risk of disaster is greatest because they have no choice but to live there.

When flooding occurs, the gap between Indonesia’s tiny handful of wealthy capitalists and the ma-

jority of Indonesians comes into stark relief. A 2015 World Bank report analyzed the gap between rich and poor Indonesians: “Indonesia’s economic growth has been enjoyed by only the top 20 percent. ... On the other side, people ... struggle to find productive employment. They are trapped in low-paying jobs.

“Some work in farming and fisheries in rural areas, others work in the informal sectors – market coolies, domestic workers, drivers, etc.

As their wages increase more slowly than for skilled workers, the income gap widens.”

CIA coup blocked social progress

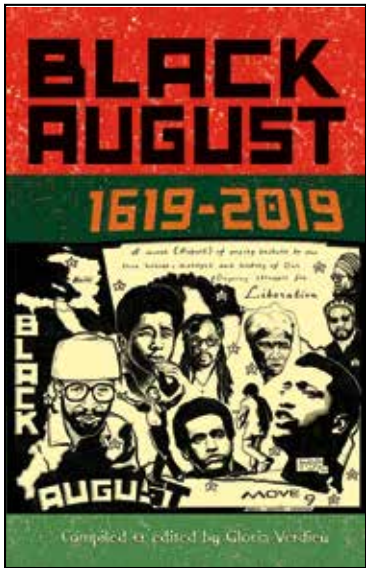
Indonesia may have developed along a different path were it not for a CIA engineered coup that overthrew its president, installed a right-wing general, and led to a massacre of more than 1 million communists in 1965. At the time, the Communist Party of Indonesia was the world’s third largest communist party, behind only the USSR and China.

The Indonesian people wanted to reorganize their country to attack the problems of massive poverty and inequality, much as China was in the process of doing. It was the height of the Cold War. As the U.S. military was trying to turn back similar efforts by the Vietnamese people, Indonesia’s anti-colonial president, Sukarno, was also in the crosshairs of U.S. imperialism.

The CIA facilitated right-wing Gen. Suharto’s rise to power and stood by as one of the greatest crimes of the 20th century was carried out. Indonesia’s revolutionary movement was destroyed, and a great step forward for human progress was turned back.

Social progress has to move forward in order to manage the effects of climate change. Endless imperialist wars and corporate pollution are a one-way ticket to the planet’s destruction.

Only a planned economy and the elimination of private ownership can develop the science and implement the decisions that are sorely needed — free of corporate control. [R]



A NEW BOOK

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Can be ordered from online book sellers <https://tinyurl.com/vn3qvn5>

March honors Dr. King's fight against war and racism

By Struggle-La Lucha
Baltimore bureau

Braving a blizzard, two dozen people marched through Baltimore city's oppressed neighborhoods for three hours on Jan. 18. They carried signs demanding "Stop food stamp cuts" and a beautiful red banner with the image of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., which read: "Jobs, education and healthcare, not racism and war!"

"We demanded no cuts to food stamps, disability benefits or Medicaid," explained march organizer Miranda Bachman of the Peoples' Power Assembly. "Then we cara-

vaned to Washington, D.C., where we were welcomed by representatives of the FMLN of El Salvador for a gathering in solidarity with anti-imperialist movements in Latin America."

Marchers reported an especially strong response from the community on the issue of cuts to the SNAP food assistance program (food stamps). Up to 15,000 Baltimore residents could lose food assistance under Trump administration rule changes set to take effect in April, in a city where a quarter of the population already faces hunger.

The Peoples' Power Assembly in

Baltimore initiated a call to "Reclaim and honor Dr. King by resisting war and racism" in the wake of U.S. war provocations in the Middle East, including the assassination of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani while he was on a peace mission to Iraq.

"In 1967 on April 4, Dr. King passionately spoke out against the Vietnam War," said the call, which was endorsed by many national and local groups. "He exclaimed that the bombs in Vietnam also exploded at home in our decaying cities. These words are just as true today. Donald Trump and the trillion dollar oil and fracking businesses stand to profit

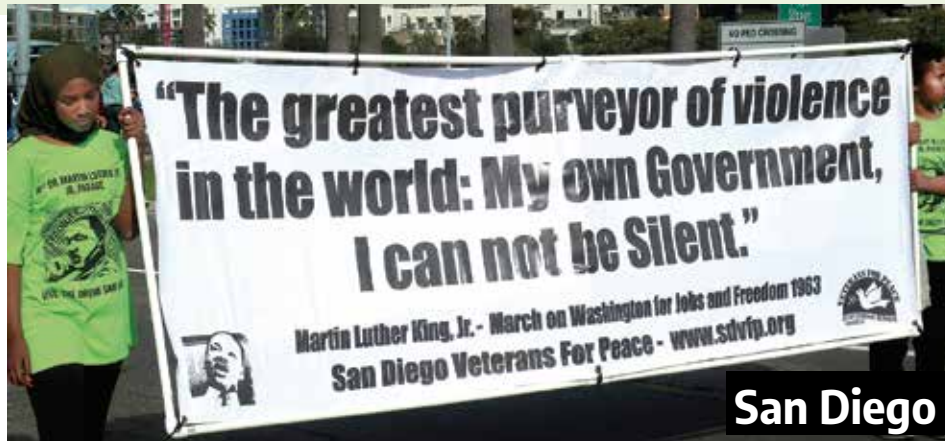
from a war on Iran and Iraq while the people of the world suffer.

"In Baltimore, we remember Trump's hateful racism in describing our city and attacking Congressman Cummings. His insults hurled at our city are comparable to his attempts to demonize the people of Iran and Iraq to justify war for oil profits.

"This is the same white supremacist ideology that justifies the assassination of foreign officials of color and the nearly one million Iraqi children killed by U.S. war. These are war crimes. We will not be fooled by those who would dismiss the humanity of our international family." ■



Baltimore



San Diego

SLL PHOTO: SHARON BLACK

SLL PHOTO: CARL MUHAMMAD

Anti-war banner at San Diego Martin Luther King Day parade.

Hands off Bolivarian Venezuela! Defend Embassy Protectors

By Cheryl LaBash
Washington, D.C.

The Venezuelan Embassy Protectors and their attorneys appeared in U.S. Federal Court before Judge Beryl Howell for preliminary motions Jan. 29. A jury trial for Adrienne Pine, Margaret Flowers, David Paul and Kevin Zeese, arrested at the Venezuelan Embassy on May 16, 2019, is scheduled to begin on Feb. 11.

The federal prosecutors attempted to limit what could be presented to the jury in defense of the Embassy Protectors. From the point of view of the U.S. Justice Department, the case was cut and dried — the protectors were told to leave the embassy, they knowingly and willfully did not leave, so they were guilty.

It was a victory today that the judge kept that restrictive motion under advisement and did not approve it immediately.

More of the story must and will come out. As U.S. interference against the elected leadership of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela heated up in 2019, even endorsing a self-appointed, U.S.-sponsored, faux president, Juan Guaidó, the struggle boiled over onto D.C. streets, particularly at the Venezuelan Embassy on 30th Street.

As we heard in court today, and as those of us who protected the Venezuelan Embassy inside and outside can attest, the elected government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, led by President Nicolás Maduro, entrusted the embassy to the Embassy Protection Collective with keys and authority. (For more information on the international legal issues involved, read "U.S. Illegally Evicts Protectors from Venezuelan Embassy" by Marjorie Cohn, dep-



PHOTO: ALEX RUBENSTEIN

Defenders of Venezuelan Embassy rally in May 2019.

uty secretary general of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers.)

If the coup attempts on the ground in Venezuela had succeeded, Guaidó might have seemed similarly entrenched like the self-appointed, racist "interim" Bolivian president, Jeanine Áñez. But regime change attempts failed and failed again. In frustration that the U.S.-backed, pro-capitalist forces could not win on the ground, agents of the U.S. government illegally seized the Venezuelan Embassy.

The four Embassy Protectors are now being prosecuted to cover up the fundamental injustice of Wash-

ington's regime-change program against the Bolivarian Venezuelan government, which has constructed 3 million homes for poor Venezuelans and continues to move forward, even burdened by an economic blockade by the largest, most powerful capitalist economy, the U.S.

It is not only the oil and mineral wealth that U.S. imperialism seeks to dominate in Venezuela. The goal is to extinguish the example of the late Hugo Chávez and Cuba's historic leader Fidel Castro, who together forged unity across Latin America and the Caribbean in the spirit of Simón Bolívar and José Martí, that of "all for the good of all" and "home-

land is humanity." In essence, the prosecution aims to defeat that solidarity spirit growing inside the U.S.

Although the charges against the Embassy Protectors are considered to be misdemeanors, the four each face a \$100,000 maximum fine with one year imprisonment if convicted for "interfering with certain protective functions" of the federal government.

The Embassy Protectors need and deserve our solidarity and support. If you can, come out to court on Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 333 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, D.C.

For more information, visit DefendEmbassyProtectors.org.

Call Trump’s ‘peace plan’ what it is: ESCALATING APARTHEID

By Lev Koufax

On Jan. 28, President Donald Trump, side by side with his partner in crime, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, announced their joint “Plan for Prosperity.” Trump touted this plan as a path to peace in the “Israeli-Palestinian conflict.”

The plan received support not only from Netanyahu, but also his political rival Benny Ganz. In particular, the continued existence of illegal Israeli settlements under the plan has been lauded by Israeli politicians. The Israeli ruling class is united on its apartheid policies against Palestine.

What Trump won’t tell you is that this isn’t a “conflict” at all. It’s the brutal oppression of the Palestinian people at the hands of the white supremacist state of Israel, based on the theft of Palestinian lands, and made possible by the United States. For more than seven decades, Washington has spent billions of dollars making the Zionist settler state its forward military base in Western Asia.



PHOTO: YUMNA PATEL / MONDOWEISS

Palestinians in Bethlehem protest Trump’s “Deal of the Century” Jan. 29.

Trump also won’t tell you that his plan is about nothing more than setting in concrete the existing apartheid conditions in occupied Palestine.

A de facto state of apartheid has long existed for the Palestinian people. Nonetheless, Trump’s plan rep-

resents an escalation of the U.S.-Israeli strategy. To claim peace while putting forward a plan that does nothing to ease the violence of the Israeli state against the Palestinian people shows the lengths to which the U.S. will go to maintain its control over the region.

This “peace plan” is nothing more than a repetition of the policy of “Bantustan” territories in apartheid South Africa or the “Reservation Plan” for Indigenous peoples in the U.S. In both cases, promises of “self-governance” and “autonomy” were made. However, the apartheid regimes in South Africa and Washington only delivered segregation, poverty and violence.

There is no reason to believe that Trump’s plan is any different.

But there’s every reason to believe that the Palestinian people will resist, as they have since the Nakba (“catastrophe”) of 1948. Within hours of the Trump-Netanyahu announcement, Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza, Jerusalem and throughout the global diaspora responded with a thundering “NO!” Palestinians and supporters have taken to the streets in protest and will continue to undertake acts of resistance.

It’s the responsibility of people in the U.S. to support them.

From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free! End Israeli apartheid now! 🇵🇸

Let’s work to #UnblockCuba

By Cheryl LaBash

When U.S. cruise ships were suddenly blocked from anchoring in Cuban ports, were you or someone you know one of the 800,000 people already booked to go to Cuba? Are you a Cuban living in the U.S., with family and friends in Guantánamo province, Holguín, Camagüey, Santiago or other eastern areas, who suddenly can’t fly to any Cuban airport except Havana?

Every week, the U.S. government intensifies the unilateral economic, financial and commercial blockade just a little bit more. According to Engage Cuba, every Democratic presidential candidate is on record for more normal relations between the U.S. and Cuba. Yet during the Democratic presidential debate in Iowa, Cuba went unmentioned.

Are you angry about this but don’t know what to do? Does Cuba seem like just another issue and you hope impeachment will solve it?

Don’t wait for impeachment or the elections in November 2020 to demand that Congress #UnblockCuba. No matter which presidential candidate is elected or which electoral party wins or loses, only our actions will make U.S.-Cuba relations a priority.

Normalization Conference

Organize for and attend the March 21-22 U.S.-Cuba Normalization Conference at Fordham University School of Law in New York City. Together we will develop an action program to organize in our communities.

In addition to the Cuban people who now suffer cooking gas shortages, we will also benefit from ending the cruel U.S. blockade.

To give an example: Black and



PHOTO: CUBASI.COM

Brown communities and other workers here know the horror of diabetic foot ulcer amputations. Cuba has a medical treatment to avoid the trauma and cost of 70 percent of these surgeries. Yet it is denied to our loved ones by the blockade.

Why should we be forced to violate U.S. law to seek treatment for lung cancer in Cuba? Watch the Public Broadcasting System’s “Nova” program airing April 1 to learn more about Cuba’s lung cancer medication Cimavax and the trials being conducted at Roswell Park in Buffalo, N.Y.

Let’s take action together and overturn the laws passed by Congress to take away the rights of the Cuban people to decide their own future.

Let’s go to Cuba

Don’t let Trump’s White House tell you where you can go. Let’s go to Cuba.

From April 26 to May 10, the 15th International May Day Brigade lets you live, work and learn with the Cuban people. Go to the celebration of

International Workers’ Day on May 1 in Havana and an international solidarity conference on May 2. Watch the I Can Go To Cuba video. To reserve your space, apply now; download the application at NNOC.info.

Or you can join the 31st Pastors for Peace Friendship Caravan to Cuba from July 17 to July 30. For more information about the 2020 Friendship Caravan, to request an application, or to host or attend a meeting in cities across the U.S. and Canada in April, contact IFCO/Pastors for Peace by email at FriendshipCaravan[at]ifconews.org or call (212) 926-5757, ext. 6.

The 51st Contingent of the Venceremos Brigade is also in preparation. Meetings are being held across the U.S. reporting back about last year’s historic 50th Venceremos Brigade. Visit VB4Cuba.com for info.

Building Relations with Cuban Labor is sponsoring one-week, union-oriented travel for May Day, plus other tours and events.

Demand change

Have your representative and senator signed on to the Freedom to Travel bills? HR 3960 and S2303 will end the restrictions on travel to Cuba. Tell your elected officials this is a priority for you.

Resolutions from City Councils or other elected bodies count! So far, 13 U.S. municipalities have made the views of their residents to #UnblockCuba known to Congress and the White House. Currently, activists in Baltimore, Chicago, New York, Oklahoma City and Washington, D.C., are working on getting resolutions passed.

Advancing resolutions and electoral work will be a topic at the U.S.-Cuba Normalization Conference. For advice or information, email Cheryl[at]nnoc.info. 🇺🇸

Network in Defense of Humanity: Defend teleSUR!

Continued from page 8

of the main targets of the Empire. TeleSUR is a child of the battle of ideas and of the fathers of this new continental era: Commanders Fidel Castro Ruz and Hugo Chávez Frías. We will win, without a doubt. We assume its defense without hesitation or half-measures. It is an irreversible commitment of all the comrades who make up the Network in Defense of Humanity and many other similar movements.

As the Venezuelan poet Víctor Valera Mora said: “The sun of the world we will make/those who will live greet you.”

TeleSUR, tell us what else you need from us, and we will be there! 🇺🇸

India, France, Puerto Rico: Corporate media hide general strikes from U.S. workers

By Greg Butterfield

Around the world, people are walking off the job in huge numbers, withholding their labor power to protest government attacks on workers’ rights and other crimes of the profit system. Why isn’t this in the news?

Unless you regularly follow alternative news sources, you might not have heard that the largest strike in history took place on Jan. 8 in India. Between 250 and 300 million — yes, million—workers, urban and rural, joined by students, shut down much of the world’s second most populated country.

The strike was long planned by unions as a protest of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s policies of austerity, price hikes and privatization. But the strike took on added momentum because of recent anti-Muslim laws that threaten to strip many people of their citizenship and the brutal police violence against protests of the anti-Muslim laws.

Meanwhile, in France, one of the most powerful countries in Europe has been gripped by a historic 40-plus day general strike against President Emmanuel Macron’s plan to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64 years.

Not only would French workers be forced to work longer for their pensions; the measure includes a thinly disguised plan to hand over the country’s pension funds, now administered and guaranteed by the government, to big banks and insurance companies — just like the rotten system that exists in the U.S. That’s why the country’s labor unions, the Yellow Vest movement, the unemployed and the unorganized have all united in an unprecedented strike movement.

Closer to home, few workers outside the Puerto Rican community may be aware of a general strike called by unions and social movements in Puerto Rico on Jan. 20. This call for mass action comes on the heels of the Trump regime’s continued withholding of urgently needed aid in the wake of ongoing earthquakes, symbolic of Washington’s racist conduct and Puerto Rico’s colonial status.

Further fuel was added by the discovery by local activists in the city of Ponce of a warehouse full of supplies withheld from the people following Hurricane María. Last July, a massive general strike that encompassed much of Puerto Rico’s population forced the resignation of the island’s governor, Ricardo Rosselló.

The year 2019 also saw powerful general strikes of workers, uniting with other sectors of the working class—students, women, Indigneous communities—in Ecuador, Colombia and Chile, to name a few of them.

So why isn’t the mass media in the U.S. reporting it?

Bosses scared

In the rare event that these strikes are mentioned—say, in a 10-second flash on a news program, or a photo

caption in the local paper—no context is given. The workers’ demands are not explained.

The first thing to remember is that the mass media in the U.S. are completely monopolized by mammoth for-profit corporations. Whether it’s the local newscast, 24-hour cable news or the local paper, what you are allowed to see trickles down from a handful of profit-hungry media giants. U.S. corporate owned social media, which many workers and youth rely on for their news, are rife with censorship.

The same bosses who hold the strings to these media giants, the banks that finance them and the politicians beholden to their money for re-election, are scared by the recent growth of the strike movement in the U.S. In 2018, nearly 500,000 workers went on strike in this country — the most in more than three decades.

The capitalist government, from the Trumps and Pelosis on down, and the big bosses they answer to, don’t want workers, communities and students here to see the power that they could have if they all get together to shut down business (and profits) as usual.

What makes a general strike different from a more common strike action? It’s not only that more people are involved. Instead of being directed against a particular employer, usually for economic demands, a general strike is directed against the government and the whole profit system.

The recent strike wave in the U.S. has been targeted at specific employers and industries. But some, like last year’s Los Angeles and Chicago teachers’ strikes, show some characteristics of a successful general strike, such as involving the wider community and raising broader demands that would benefit the whole working class, like more affordable housing.

Also, last autumn’s global climate



General strike in India on Jan. 8.



Union protest in Marseille, France, Dec. 5.

strike, though not a labor strike per se, took on a mass character that saw many workers withhold their labor and employers forced to close their doors for a protest against the capitalist system’s deadly ravaging of the environment.

The possibility that this could blossom into greater consciousness of workers’ power as a class and desire for unity makes the bosses very nervous.

After all, aren’t there plenty of things that could warrant a general strike here?

Both the Republicans and Democrats voted in December to hand the Trump administration a massive

increase in the war budget, even as Trump prepares to further cut food assistance to low-wage workers.

Federal, state and city governments continue to give tax breaks to big companies and okay development of luxury housing while the numbers of homeless families increase and oppressed people are driven out of their neighborhoods by gentrification.

Then there’s the official torture and imprisonment of migrants and refugees, including children.

Help spread the word about the general strikes in India, France and Puerto Rico. Let’s share these vital ideas with our class! 📢

A NEW BOOK BY BOB MCCUBBIN

The Social Evolution of Humanity Marx and Engels were right!

<https://tinyurl.com/vwarcv7>

This study of the evolution of humanity focuses on human social/sexual relations and, in particular, the changing social status of women.

It offers a selection of scientific evidence that updates and augments the viewpoint expressed in Frederick Engels’ masterful work, *‘Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State.’*

McCubbin is the author of *‘Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View.’*

First published in 1976, during the first flush of the modern LGBTQ2S movement, McCubbin’s unparalleled achievement was to offer a historical analysis of when, where, why and how LGBTQ2S oppression developed.

Published by **STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM ★ LA LUCHA POR SOCIALISMO**

The Social Evolution
of Humanity

Marx and Engels Were Right!

Bob McCubbin



¡Defender teleSUR!

Por Red en Defensa de la Humanidad
Nuestra América, 20 de enero de 2020
Compañera Patricia Villegas
Presidenta de teleSUR
Venezuela
Estimada Patricia:

Es difícil reunir tantos elementos y de tan débil credibilidad, como aquellos utilizados hoy por los lacayos del imperio en las amenazas e intentos por acallar a teleSUR. Estos empeños no hacen más que reafirmar la certeza del valor de esta plataforma multimedia en la batalla de los pueblos por el derecho a la verdad.

Cuántas veces, como espectadores, nos hemos sentido reconfortados al ver que un equipo de teleSUR se encuentra en el lugar donde suceden acontecimientos trascendentales para los silenciados, para los excluidos de siempre, y nos reporta, desde dentro, lo que acontece. No podríamos enumerar esas tantísimas ocasiones, pero sí transmitir nuestro profundo agradecimiento y respeto por una labor tan valiente y profesional como la que realiza la emisora. Solo a través de teleSUR hemos podido conocer la acción despiadada y letal del capitalismo, la fuerza de la resistencia de líderes y movimientos populares y de hechos que han abierto verdaderas brechas a la dominación imperial y que han marcado la historia de nuestros pueblos.

La soberbia de los poderosos no soporta la pluralidad de visiones, de culturas, la transparencia informativa, el respeto por el espectador. No soporta el análisis a fondo de los hechos y sus causas, no soporta la denuncia a las transnacionales y sus sucios manejos, la crítica a la manipulación obscena de los medios y redes afines al sistema. Es para ellos imprescindible silenciar esta plataforma, uno de los grandes logros por la descolonización de nuestra América que impulsara el Comandante Hugo Chávez.

Hace ya 16 años de aquella reunión en Venezuela, en diciembre de 2004, donde se dieron cita unos 400 intelectuales provenientes de 52 países. Es en este encuentro en el que se formaliza el nacimiento de la Red de Intelectuales, Artistas y Movimientos Sociales en

Defensa de la Humanidad (REDH) y en su documento final, conocido como “Llamamiento de Caracas”, reza: “Apoyar la constitución de una televisora del sur y de medios televisivos y radiofónicos independientes al servicio de los intereses de nuestros pueblos”.

Inmediatamente, el presidente Chávez, con su visión estratégica, asumió el compromiso de crear un medio de comunicación audiovisual asociado a la emancipación. De esta forma, las historias de la Red y de teleSUR están entrelazadas de una manera profunda y germinal; por lo que salvaguardar Telesur, su filosofía, sus ideales, y su obra, es también nuestra obligación.

Hoy estamos frente a un imperio decadente, cada vez más desesperado al ver cómo se debilita su hegemonía en la que José Martí llamara con razón Nuestra América, algo que necesita para garantizar su subsistencia. No subestimemos sus amenazas. Redoblemos esfuerzos y mantengámonos alertas para impedir que despojen a los pueblos del derecho a una información veraz, plural y oportuna, que junto al derecho al trabajo, a la salud, la educación y la cultura, siguen siendo las aspiraciones más caras de la humanidad hoy, cuando ya han transcurrido veinte años de este nuevo siglo.

Querida Patricia, en realidad te honran de modo singular al colocar entre sus principales blancos el exitoso trabajo del canal y tu propia labor como su presidenta. TeleSUR es hijo de la batalla de las ideas y de los padres de esta nueva era continental: los Comandantes Fidel Castro Ruz y Hugo Chávez Frías. Venceremos, sin duda. Asumimos su defensa sin titubeos ni medias tintas, como un compromiso irreversible de todos los compañeros y compañeras que conformamos la Red en Defensa de la Humanidad y muchos otros movimientos afines.



Como dijera el poeta venezolano Víctor Valera Mora:

**“Sol del mundo que haremos
los que van a vivir te saludan”.**

Que teleSUR nos diga qué más necesita de nosotros ¡y ahí estaremos!

Un abrazo fraterno y solidario,
En nombre de la REDH, los
integrantes de su Secretaría:

Atilio A. Borón, Argentina
Paula Klachko, Argentina
Stella Calloni, Argentina
Marcos Teruggi, Argentina/
Venezuela
Tim Anderson, Australia
Hugo Mórdiz, Bolivia
María Nela Prada, Bolivia
Carlos Alberto (Beto) Almeida,
Brasil
Marilia Guimaraes, Brasil
Nadia Bambirra, Brasil
Arnold August, Canadá
Florencia Lagos, Chile
Javiera Olivares, Chile
Pablo Sepúlveda Allende,
Chile/Venezuela

Dario Salinas Figueredo,
Chile/México
Ángel Guerra, Cuba/México
Ariana López, Cuba
Fernando León Jacomino, Cuba
Omar González, Cuba
Irene León, Ecuador
Orlando Pérez, Ecuador
Arantxa Tirado, España
Javier Couso, España
Alicia Jrapko, EE.UU.
Hernando Calvo Ospina, Francia
Camille Chalmers, Haití
Anarella Vélez, Honduras
Gilberto Ríos, Honduras
Luis Hernández Navarro,
México
Nayar López, México
Fernando Buen Abad, México/
Argentina

Katu Arkonada, País Vasco/
México
Ricardo Flecha, Paraguay
Hildebrando Pérez Grande,
Perú
Antonio Elías, Uruguay
Gabriela Cultelli, Uruguay
Carmen Bohórquez, Venezuela
Pasqualina Curcio, Venezuela
Pedro Calzadilla, Venezuela
Sergio Arria,
Venezuela/Argentina
**Fuente: Con La Verdad,
Por La Paz y
La Justicia
Social**

Network in Defense of Humanity: Defend teleSUR!

By Network in Defense of Humanity
Our America, January 20, 2020
Compañera Patricia Villegas
President of teleSUR
Caracas, Venezuela

Dear Patricia,

It is difficult to gather together so many elements and of such weak credibility as those used today by the Empire's lackeys with threats and attempts to silence teleSUR. These efforts only reaffirm the certainty of the value of this station in the battle of the peoples for their right to truth.

How many times have we, as spectators, felt comforted to see that a teleSUR team is in the place where transcendental events are happening for those who have been silenced, for those who have always been excluded, and it reports to us, from within, what is happening. We could not count on how many occasions this was the case, but we can transmit our deep gratitude and respect for such courageous and professional work carried out by the station. Only through teleSUR have we been able to learn about the merciless and lethal action of capitalism, the strength of the resistance of leaders and popular movements, and the events that have opened up real gaps in imperial domination that have marked the history of our peoples.

The arrogance of the powerful does not support the plurality of visions, of cultures, the transparency of information, or respect for the spectator. It does not support an in-depth analysis of the facts and their causes, it does not support the denunciation of the transnationals and their dirty dealings, the criticism of the obscene manipulation of the media and networks related to the system. For them, it is essential to silence this platform, one of the great achievements for the decolonization of Our America that Commander Hugo Chávez promoted.

It has been 16 years since that meeting in Venezuela in December 2004, where some 400 intellectuals from 52 countries met. It was at this meeting that the Network of Intellectuals, Artists and Social Movements in Defense of Humanity (REDH) was formalized and its final document, known as the “Caracas Call,” reads: “Support the establishment of a television station of the South and independent television and radio media at the service of the interests of our peoples.”

Immediately, President Chávez, with his strategic vision, assumed the commitment to create an audiovisual media associated with emancipation. In this way, the stories of the Network and teleSUR are intertwined in a deep and embryonic way; therefore, safeguarding teleSUR, its philosophy, its ideals, and its work is not just a position, it is also our obligation.

Today we are facing a decadent empire, increasingly desperate as it sees its hegemony weakening in what José Martí rightly called Our America, something it needs to ensure its survival. Let us not underestimate these threats. Let us redouble our efforts and remain alert to prevent them from depriving the peoples of their right to truthful, plural and timely information, which, together with the right to work, health, education and culture, continue to be the most valuable aspirations of humanity today, 20 years into this new century.

Dear Patricia, you are actually being honored in a unique way by having the successful work of the network and your own work as its president among one

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